



City Administrator's Report

September 2003

Dear Reader,

This monthly report summarizes and provides updates on major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to give us your comments and suggestions.

James L. Armstrong
jarmstrong@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us
564-5301

Marcelo A. López
mlopez@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us
564-5304

Key Meetings:

September 16, 23, 30 Council Meetings

Flags on State Street:

September 1-8	United Way
September 8-12	September 11 th Tribute (American Flags)
September 12-25	U.C.S.B.
September 25-October 8	Ensemble Theatre

Community Events:

September 1-30	Library Card Sign-Up Month
September 5	"Thank Goodness It's Friday" mixer and fundraiser, Environmental Defense Center, 5:30 p.m.
	Yellowstone Ecological Area, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m.
September 6	Salsa Festival, Ortega Park, noon to 5 p.m.
	"Native Plants for the Home Garden" tour, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 2 p.m.
September 7	Arthritis Foundation's annual "Taste of the Town" fundraiser, Riviera Research Park, reservations required, noon-3 p.m.
	Jane Monheit sings jazz, Lobero Theatre, 8 p.m.
September 9	Concert in the Park, Elings Park, 6 p.m.
September 10	Orchid Society monthly meeting, Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.
September 12	Casa Serena's "Friend-raiser BBQ," Leadbetter Beach Park, noon
September 13	Day of Caring - City employees lend a helping hand
September 13-14	California Organic Festival, Oak Park, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
September 20	Barbara Ireland's "Walk for the Cure" (Susan Love, M.D. Breast Cancer Research Foundation) Leadbetter Beach, 8:30 a.m.

September 20	Santa Barbara Book and Author Festival, De La Guerra Plaza, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
September 21	Sandcastle and Sculpting Festival, East Beach, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
September 27-28	Multi Cultural Dance and Music Festival, Oak Park, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

City Administrator

Draw your swords

Esteemed members of boards, commissions, and committees can help slay paper dragons by choosing to receive the Santa Barbara City Administrator's Report electronically. E-mail delivery conserves paper and trees, saves time, and reduces costs. Join the battle by sending your name and e-mail address to Mindy Jackson at mjackson@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us. An added bonus: links to photos and other supplemental information will not be accessible in paper copies of the report.

Charitable Giving Campaign

Plans are underway for the City of Santa Barbara's annual Charitable Giving Campaign, which begins Oct. 1st. Led by Chair Cam Sanchez and Deputy Chair Paul Casey, the campaign offers an opportunity to contribute to a favorite charity, whether here in the city or across the country – and the list is practically limitless! During October, department representatives will hand out pledge cards and lists of eligible non-profit organizations. Employees can elect to donate through payroll deduction directly to the charity of their choice. Watch for details.

Hwy. 101 traffic delay

Today through Sept. 19, expect intermittent, one-way traffic control on the Micheltorena Street Bridge across Hwy. 101. During rush hour between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., drivers are advised to use alternate routes. Work crews are installing a foundation for the bridge, with construction to be completed in early 2004.

City-TV, Channel 18

September edition of "Inside Santa Barbara" starts Sept. 6th at 9 p.m.: Housing Element Update; Street Tree Trimming and Expanded Street Sweeping; Santa Barbara Kennel Club Annual Show; Altering Space: Sculpture in the Public Eye Art Exhibit; Healing Opportunities Non-profit Organization. Weekly airtimes: Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., Sundays at 10:30 p.m.

"Nuestra Ciudad" is a monthly Spanish language show that promotes city government services to Santa Barbara's Spanish speaking residents. Airs each month on Mondays at 9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 8 p.m. This month, host Gerardo Lorenz and his guest, Assistant to the City Administrator Marcelo Lopez, discuss the city and state budget impacts, plus City-TV's Spanish translation public service, and closed captioning of City Council meetings.

Airport Department

Airport taxicab permits

Every September, Airport Taxicab Permits are evaluated for renewal in accordance with Santa Barbara Airport Taxi Administrative Regulations. Cab companies must comply with regulations, and points are deducted for substandard or poor performance such as: late fee payment; public complaints; vehicle and passenger safety deficiencies; dress code violations; short-haul refusal; overcharging; unkempt vehicles; and non-compliance with Airport regulations. These evaluations help to keep the high standard for comfort, safety, and service.

Turning the tide

The Goleta Slough Reserve will benefit from a \$298,000 Wetlands Recovery Project grant to study, restore, and conserve endangered tidal wetlands located on airport property. Restoration includes introducing tidal circulation in two Slough basins while monitoring bird activity for three years. California Coastal Conservancy awarded the grant to Santa Barbara Airport. Once the design is complete, the airport will seek additional Conservancy grant funds to construct and implement the tidal basins, likely to occur in fall 2004.

Passenger count takes flight

Santa Barbara Airport passenger traffic increased 15% in July over the same month last year! More than 73,700 airline passengers flew in and out of the Airport that month, with many inbound and outbound flights filled to capacity. While the new *Horizon Air* service to Portland and Seattle accounted for the majority of the increase, traffic would still have surpassed last July. Seats onboard *United Express* flights to Denver were the best sellers at 94% of capacity.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission

Projects being pondered in September include 401-415 Chapala Street, a.k.a. Chapala One, which proposes demolishing the Building Trades Center, a used car lot, and an auto repair shop, and replacing them with a four-story mixed-use compound adjacent to Mission Creek. There is also a joint hearing with the Park and Recreation Commission on the Draft Negative Declaration for the Franceschi Park Master Plan.

This fall, look for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Scoping Hearings for: the Cottage Hospital reconstruction project and Specific Plan; and for the Lee Annexation, subdivision, and Specific Plan on Las Positas Road. Certifying a final EIR for the Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan and Off-Leash Dog Park Location Study will also be considered.

Going for 150

At last year's Day of Caring, more than 140 city employees and their families volunteered to spend a few hours sprucing up the quarters of local nonprofits. Our goal is to beat that number this year. Put on your jeans and sneakers, and lend a hand with painting, gardening, sorting goods, and other chores, indoors and out. Set for Saturday, Sept. 13th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., this popular annual event is sponsored by the United Way. Starting with a welcome breakfast at the Ben Page Youth Center, volunteers will be assigned to sites at the Rescue Mission, Girls, Inc., Santa Barbara Zoo, Rape Crisis Center, and a mystery location. Call Turquoise Taylor Grant at 805-564-5502 for information or to sign up.

Design Review Awards

Mayor Blum presented the Architectural Board of Review and Historic Landmarks Commission awards on July 29th. Awards are given only to projects within the city limits, and only to recognize meritorious structures or deeds – as part of a program to stimulate and reward excellence in design. No award has been presented since 1999.

This year's awards: *Saint Barbara Award* – for individuals who perform outstanding service to enhance and preserve the built environment of Santa Barbara, went to Louise Boucher, civic activist, current president of the Citizen's Planning Association, previously on the city's Historic Landmarks Commission; and to John Pitman, Fellow, American Association of Architects, civic activist, and founding member of the Santa Barbara Conservancy.

George Washington Smith Award – for exemplary design in architecture, was awarded to the Zannon Building at 407 State Street (Jeff Shelton, architect); *Pearl Chase Award* – for exemplary design in historic architecture, either new, renovated, or conserved, was awarded to the 727 Garden Street building (Edwards & Pitman, architects); *Lockwood de Forest Award* – for exemplary design in landscape architecture and non-habitable structures, went to the State Street improvements from Victoria to Cota Streets (Bob Cunningham and Arcadia Studio, landscape architects).

Inclusionary Housing

The draft Inclusionary Housing Program, as recommended by the Planning Commission on July 24th, goes to the City Council on September 23rd for review, public comment, and a recommendation to direct staff to draft a formal ordinance. The program requires all new residential ownership projects of 10 or more units to set aside 15% of the units for affordable- to middle-income households.

Housing Element

The State of California has mandated that the Housing Element be certified by December 2003. City Council heard and approved the draft Housing Element Update in August, and directed staff to forward it to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for preliminary review and comment. The Housing Element provides policy direction for housing development.

Creekside

Staff sent out letters on Aug. 20th to update about 1,900 creek-side residents and interested parties on the status of the creek development standards draft. The letter concluded that that after much public input, extensive and substantive changes are required to move forward. Staff estimates that a proposal addressing these issues will be available for public review by early 2004.

Finance Department**Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)**

The table shows encouraging though not significant growth, with July TOT up approximately 1.3% from the prior fiscal year. This is the first month to reflect an increase after declines in the four previous months. We are not only up from last year, but almost back to the fiscal year 2001 level.

	FY 2001	Change from Prior Year	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year
July	\$1,204,593	11.3%	\$1,171,041	-2.8%	\$1,183,951	1.1%	\$1,199,000	1.3%
Aug	\$1,246,973	7.9%	\$1,276,212	2.3%	\$1,328,278	4.1%		
Sept	\$952,314	14.1%	\$808,657	-15.1%	\$849,174	5.0%		
Oct	\$839,946	3.7%	\$790,919	-5.8%	\$830,054	4.9%		
Nov	\$691,398	13.2%	\$653,829	-5.4%	\$684,776	4.7%		
Dec	\$594,145	16.2%	\$539,598	-9.2%	\$529,694	-1.8%		
Jan	\$578,703	9.4%	\$511,090	-11.7%	\$583,413	14.2%		
Feb	\$628,764	9.4%	\$611,322	-2.8%	\$616,824	0.9%		
Mar	\$769,047	5.6%	\$783,829	1.9%	\$704,942	-10.1%		
April	\$810,450	0.8%	\$822,209	1.5%	\$793,352	-3.5%		
May	\$841,975	3.3%	\$856,251	1.7%	\$817,047	-4.6%		
June	\$1,012,438	8.2%	\$1,012,905	0.0%	\$942,897	-6.9%		
Yr Total	\$10,170,746	8.3%	\$9,837,862	-3.3%	\$9,864,403	0.3%	\$1,199,000	1.3%

Fire Department**Keeping kids safe**

The Fire Department is preparing for the second annual Children's Safety Fair at La Cumbre Plaza Shopping Center, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Oct. 11th. Local agencies and sponsors are teaming up with Santa Barbara City Airport Patrol, Animal Patrol, Harbor Patrol, Parks, Police, California Highway Patrol, U. S. Armed Forces and others for this free, public event. For information, call 805-564-5703.

Montana fire assignments

Ten Santa Barbara City Firefighting personnel have been deployed in Montana to support the United States Forest Service at three different fire incidents. Costs for the 14-day assignment are 100% reimbursable to the City of Santa Barbara.

New fire engine

As part of a 15-year replacement plan, the department has received a new fire engine to replace a 35-year-old vehicle at Station 5 on Modoc Road. The new vehicle will service Santa Barbara's Westside community.

Ambulance service

Fire Department staff have been working with a countywide focus group to insure that the new ambulance contract for the County of Santa Barbara meets the needs of City of Santa Barbara residents. The current contract ends December 31, 2004.

Library Department

Open books for open minds

Threats against the freedom to read still exist. *Banned Books Week 2003* from Sept. 20-27 is the 22nd annual celebration of the freedom to read – a freedom that is firmly rooted in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Visit the library and exercise your freedom to read.

Young readers travel through 45,000 books

More than 3,500 children took part in the Santa Barbara Public Library System's 2003 summer reading program, *Reading Road Trip U.S.A.*, reading over 45,000 books and attending puppet shows, story times, magic shows, and crafts programs. Friends of the Library groups at each branch funded the events and program materials, with more than 50 local businesses and organizations providing publicity and incentive prizes for the readers.

Shipwreck adventure

Spend Sept. 20th to Nov. 1st with two shipwreck survivors – a youngster named Pi Patel and his 450-pound Bengal tiger companion named Richard Parker. "The Life of Pi," by Yann Martel is the *Santa Barbara Reads* program selection for the second, community-wide promotion of reading and the discussion of ideas and beliefs. Pi narrates a story of religion and zoology, tragedy and comedy, truth and illusion. Visit the Santa Barbara Central Library or local branches for a copy of the book, and for information on book talks and discussion groups.

Parks and Recreation Department

Back to school

Thirteen Parks and Recreation staff are back on campus. Three after-school recreation programs get underway this month, including the *Recreation After-School Program* (RAP) and the *A-OK! Program* at five elementary schools; and the *After-School Sports Program* at three junior high schools. All programs are offered in conjunction with the Santa Barbara School Districts. Due to changes in funding and program administration, Parks and Recreation is administering the RAP and the junior high programs, and families will sign up through the department rather than through the schools. See the Fall/Winter Activity Guide for more information, or visit www.sbparksandrecreation.com

Water wings

Forty-eight underprivileged children learned to swim at the Parks and *Safe Summer for Kids* program held at the Santa Barbara High School pool. Each participant in the structured swim program – designed to teach children to swim rather than to play in the pool – received an achievement award and American Red Cross swim card. “Safe Summer” is a new, community collaboration by PAL, Girls, Inc., two Boys & Girls Clubs, and the city’s Recreation Department to provide summer recreational activities for more than 400 children.

Some like it hot

Emphasizing families and community services, the second annual *Salsa Festival and Community Resource Fair* returns to Ortega Park on Sept. 6th from noon to 5 p.m. The event offers live music, a talent show, mercadito (food and craft vendors), raffles, a children’s fun zone, and salsa-tasting contests. For information, contact Antonio Velasquez at 805-963-7567.

Teens with the write stuff

Local teenagers are being sought to write, edit, and produce a new teen-oriented magazine that will be distributed in the community. The first production meeting is Oct. 6th at 4 p.m. at the Alley, located behind the Carrillo Recreation Center at 100 East Carrillo Street. Adults interested in assisting as writing, editing, or production consultants, or who’d like to refer a talented teenager, can contact Teen Programs at 805-897-2650.

Beauty treatment

Two city parks have received *Santa Barbara Beautiful* (SBB) awards this year. Storke Placita at De La Guerra Plaza was named the Architectural/Natural Feature category winner; and the landscaping along State Street from Victoria to Haley was named winner of the Open Public Space category. Mayor Blum will present Certificates of Award to the winners during the 39th Annual SBB Awards Banquet on Sept. 21st.

Police Department**Party’s over**

During Fiesta, police officers put 147 people in jail, issued 509 misdemeanor tickets, handed out 311 citations to errant drivers and pedestrians, and wrote 278 parking tickets. This year’s addition of portable, outdoor lighting at every downtown intersection helped to discourage incidence of unruly behavior.

1 tree + 3 cars + 1 zillion bees = one BIG mess

Insect road rage? The report of a fallen tree striking a car brought Santa Barbara Police Officers to the scene at Los Olivos Street and APS last month. Officer Venable learned that a large beehive was destroyed in the mishap, and countless angry bees were swarming. As it fell, the two-foot thick tree struck two moving cars, giving one passenger a minor cut from broken glass. A parked car was crushed by the tree. While examining the damage and the tree, the returning passengers were attacked by the now homeless insects. Three people were stung four times. The beekeeper was on vacation that day, so the Santa Barbara Fire Department responded. Quick thinking and prior beehive training enabled the team to kill the bees with foam. Enter the city tree crew, who cut up the hapless tree and moved it to the side of the road. Moral: bee careful out there.

Special delivery pizza

The Narcotic Unit conducted surveillance and then executed a search warrant on a pizza delivery driver last month. A traffic stop during the suspect's lunch time pizza deliveries resulted in the seizure of one ounce of cocaine packaged for sale in 30 bags, along with scales, packaging material, \$1,553 cash, and 10 hot pizzas.

Public Works Department**Foot traffic**

To improve pedestrian travel near schools and businesses, construction began August 14th on new city sidewalks, parkway landscaping, and wheelchair ramps. This \$463,000 project is one in a series of sidewalk improvement projects to implement goals of the city's Circulation Element. Scheduled for completion in November, the project includes 20,000 square-feet of sidewalks, 18 wheelchair ramps, 1,378 lineal feet of curb and gutter, and 4,500 square-feet of driveways.

Protecting ocean water quality

Find out what happens to the water that leaves your home. Free tours, equipment displays, kids activities, and food are planned for an Open House event at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant on October 4th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to the public.

Shedding more light on De La Guerra Plaza

Immediately after Fiesta, the streetlights on De La Guerra Plaza were removed from their bases because the bolts and safety spiders that support each light were corroded from exposure to irrigation sprinklers. New bases and safety spiders will be installed during the next couple of months, and the original State Street style fixture will be refurbished and replaced.

This emergency repair project provided an opportunity to increase the electrical service used to support various events held at the plaza, by increasing the electrical power supply from 600 amps to 1200 amps with funds provided by the Redevelopment Agency. The additional power supply will be distributed to 20, in-ground utility stations, and will occur simultaneously with the street light repair at a cost of approximately \$80,000.

Bio-diesel for city vehicles

A tractor that pulls the beach cleaner, the Annex Yard loader, and a diesel street sweeper from the city fleet are now using bio-diesel fuel (B-20) instead of diesel fuel. (Pictures link: http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us/press_releases/bio-diesel/) Designated an alternative fuel by the Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Transportation, B-20 is one of many alternative fuels being considered as a viable replacement for diesel. Bio-diesel fuel is a combination of 80% petro-diesel and 20% bio-diesel. The bio-diesel component of the blended fuel is made from 100% virgin soybean oil.

Operators of the bio-diesel powered vehicles will fill up at the McCormix fuel site on Yanonali Street, and keep a daily log on the operability of their vehicles. A decision will be made to continue or discontinue the use of B-20 in these vehicles after the logs have been maintained for two weeks. The bio-diesel fuel provided by McCormix meets all engine manufacturers' fuel quality provisions and warranty requirements.

Waterfront Department

Harbor Patrol's quick response makes for smooth sailing

When Fuel Dock personnel last month reported a woman aboard an engine-powered sailboat in the main channel calling for help, Harbor Patrol swung into action. A man onboard the sailboat was acting oddly, and trying to raise and lower the sails. The boat was going in circles as Harbor Patrol Boat #1 approached. The woman on board said her husband, who was handling the sails, is diabetic, and was having a problem. He was suffering from insulin shock, as his blood sugar level of 45 later indicated. One officer boarded the boat to help stabilize the vessel, while the other tied up along side and towed it to a safe area of the channel, and ultimately to the dock. The victim then tested his blood sugar, drank some juice and regained coherence. Thanks to sound judgment, excellent boatmanship, thorough training and quick response, the event concluded safely and the couple continued their sail.

Santa Barbara Water Taxi- New service on the waterfront

A year-round transportation service between Santa Barbara Harbor and Stearns Wharf begins this month, provided by Santa Barbara Water Taxi. Cost is \$2.50 one-way and \$5 round-trip. The bright-yellow water taxi is Coast Guard certified and can hold a maximum of 23 passengers with a crew of two.